

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:DP  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER(INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. COLLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM  
NEA/EGY

-----120148Z 036373 /72

O 112351Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NY  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
DOD  
CIA  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 107707

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 11

1.  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 11, 1977:

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THOSE  
PENDING AMENDMENTS IN THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
DEALING WITH ISRAEL?

A. IN GENERAL, WE UNDERSTAND AND ENDORSE THE DESIRE OF THE  
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO EX-  
PRESS SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SECURITY OF  
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ISRAEL -- AND WITH REGARD TO THE AMENDMENTS YOU HAVE  
MENTIONED, WE'RE OBVIOUSLY IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS INTERESTED  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABOUT THEM. BUT I THINK THE POINT HAS  
TO BE MADE AGAIN, IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT, WITH REGARD TO  
THE UNSTINTING AND UNDIMINISHED COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. AND I WOULD REITERATE  
FOR YOU, IF I MAY, WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID THIS MORNING --  
AND I HAVE NOT SEEN THIS ON THE WIRES AS YET, SO I WILL  
READ IT.

THE SECRETARY SAID THIS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FOLLOWING  
HIS MEETING WITH MR. ALLON THIS MORNING IN LONDON, AND  
I'LL READ IT:

QUOTE: THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE  
POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY WE HAVE  
BEEN WORKING ON AND WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE FUTURE  
WILL IN SOME WAY HARM ISRAEL. THAT IS NOT THE CASE. WE  
HAVE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE HAVE A SPECIAL RELATION-  
SHIP WITH ISRAEL. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE SECURITY OF  
ISRAEL AND, AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, WE WILL IN THE FUTURE  
MAKE SURE THAT ISRAEL HAS THE DEFENSE ARTICLES NECESSARY  
TO PRESERVE THAT SECURITY, INCLUDING THE DEFENSE ARTICLES  
NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THAT SECURITY, INCLUDING THE ADVANCED

TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED. QUOTE.

Q. --DOES IT MEAN THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT CANCELLED THE CATEGORIES -- DIFFERENT CATEGORIES -- IN THE MEMORANDUM YOU ARE GOING TO PRESENT TO THE PRESIDENT ON ARMS SALES?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT ANY MEMORANDUM BEING PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT. BUT WITH REGARD TO THIS STATEMENT IT MEANS PRECISELY WHAT IT SAYS, AND IT'S THE LATEST STATEMENT OR RESTATEMENT OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. I THINK YOU SHOULD READ IT AS SUCH.  
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I THINK IT'S VERY CLEAR, UNEQUIVOCAL AND TO THE POINT. I'M NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT IN TRYING TO INTERPRET IT OR OFFER ANY KIND OF FURTHER DRAWOUT ON THE MEANING OF THE WORDS.

Q. WELL, LET'S BACK UP. BEFORE YOU GOT TO THE SECRETARY YOU HAD A GUIDANCE THERE WITH THE PHRASE QUOTE UNSTINTING AND UNDIMINISHED COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL. UNQUOTE. DOES THAT MEAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS IN FAVOR OF MAKING GOOD ON ALL ARMS COMMITMENTS TO ISRAEL -- ALL PROMISES MADE BY THIS AND PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS -- OR ARE THEY UNDER REVIEW?

A. WELL, THAT GETS INTO SPECIFICS, BARRY. I'M NOT ABOUT TO DO THAT. WE WENT THROUGH THIS YESTERDAY A BIT ON, OF COURSE, THE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AWAITING PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS AT THIS TIME. SO I THINK THAT WOULD GET INTO -- WOULD ENCROACH ON -- WHAT IS GOING TO BE FORTHCOMING IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. SO I WON'T ADDRESS SPECIFICS OF EXISTING REQUESTS.

Q. FRED, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHEN THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE A DECISION ON THE MEMORANDUM?

A. I DON'T. NOT ANY MORE THAN I DID YESTERDAY WHEN I SAID QUOTE PRETTY SOON. UNQUOTE.

Q. IS THE F-16 ONE OF THOSE PENDING DECISIONS?

A. I DON'T KNOW -- NO, I'M SORRY: THE F-16 WAS -- YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CO-PRODUCTION OR THE SUPPLY OF?

Q. THE NUMBER. THE NUMBER THAT WOULD BE SOLD?

A. YES. WELL, I BELIEVE WE POSTED AN ANSWER ON THAT YESTERDAY, MARVIN.  
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Q. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NUMBER THOUGH.

A. I BELIEVE IT SAID THE NUMBER AND TIMING TO BE DETERMINED, DID IT NOT?

Q. YES, THAT'S RIGHT; AND I'M ASKING YOU IF ONE OF THE DECISIONS THAT YOU'RE NOW TALKING ABOUT RELATES SPECIFICALLY TO THOSE TWO AREAS.

A. I'M AFRAID I JUST AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO SPECIFICS.

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT REJECTED A PROPOSAL BY LIBYA THAT THE EMBASSY BE, I MEAN, UPGRADED THERE AND, IF SO, IS THIS RELATED TO THE LETTER PUBLISHED BY SENATOR JAVITS ABOUT LIBYA BEING ONE OF THE TERRORIST HAVENS?

A. WOULD YOU RESTATE THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE?

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT REJECTED A PROPOSAL BY LIBYA TO UPGRADE THE U.S. EMBASSY LEVEL IN TRIPOLI?

A. WELL, I THINK YOU HAVE TO PUT -- WHEN YOU SAY QUOTE REJECTED, UNQUOTE, LET'S PUT IT IN CONTEXT. THE MATTER WAS RAISED IN PASSING DURING A GENERAL CONVERSATION ON LIBYAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS DURING THE VISIT OF A LIBYAN LEADER HERE LAST WEEK, AND HIS NAME IS MR. AHMED SHAHATY. HE IS THE LEADER OF A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DELEGATION FROM LIBYA, AND A FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEADER IN THE LIBYAN LEGISLATURE.

NOW, THIS WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DELEGATION. HE WAS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, AND DURING THE COURSE OF A COURTESY CALL IN THE DEPARTMENT, THE MATTER CAME UP.

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THE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, WAS NOT THE REASON FOR THE MEETING OR THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE MEETING. AND IN REPLY -- GETTING TO YOUR QUESTION NOW -- IN REPLY I WOULD SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT IS UNCHANGED. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO RAISE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION TO THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL.

Q. FRED, WHAT DID YOU CALL THAT?

A. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, JUAN?

Q. A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE --?

A. YES, A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM.

Q. I HAVEN'T HEARD THAT SINCE EISENHOWER DAYS.

A. IT HAS EXISTED FOR A LONG TIME.

Q. YOU MEAN HE WASN'T A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE? HE WAS SORT OF A FREE-TRAVELLING LIBYAN?

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HE WAS NOT HERE IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY. HE WAS HERE IN WASHINGTON ON A GOOD-WILL MISSION, INCLUDING THE ENDOWMENT OF A CHAIR AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY.

Q. WHO DID HE MEET HERE?

A. THIS TOOK PLACE IN A CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON.

Q. WHO DID REPRESENT OUR GOVERNMENT?

A. WELL, IT WAS A COURTESY CALL, YES.

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Q. JUST FOR BACKGROUND, HOW LONG HAS THIS POLICY -- I MEAN, THERE HAS BEEN NO AMBASSADOR IN LIBYA FOR HOW LONG?

A. I DON'T KNOW PRECISELY WHEN IT BEGAN, BUT IT HAS BEEN IN EFFECT FOR -- NOVEMBER OF 1972.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 10:

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHETHER AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN CONVEYED TO SECRETARY VANCE A FORMULATION CONCERNING A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND LAST WEEK?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY VANCE MIGHT MEET WITH MR. ARAFAT ON HIS NEXT MIDDLE EAST TRIP?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION OF PLANS FOR ANY SUCH MEETING, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE QUESTION OF A NEXT MIDDLE EAST TRIP IS STILL VERY MUCH IN THE HYPOTHETICAL STAGE.

Q. IT'S BEEN SAID SEVERAL TIMES IT WAS PLANNED FOR HIM TO GO.

A. YES, EVENTUALLY, BUT NO TIMING.

Q. WOULD VANCE SEE ANYONE FROM THE PLO?

A. OUR POSITION ON THE PLO REMAINS UNCHANGED. I'LL  
RETREAT INTO THAT. (LAUGHTER.)

Q. AND UNTIL THE PLO DOES ALL THOSE THINGS THAT YOU'D  
LIKE THEM TO DO, VANCE WON'T SEE THEM?  
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A. LET'S JUST LEAVE IT THAT IT REMAINS UNCHANGED. I'M  
NOT GOING TO GET INTO AN ARGUMENT.

Q. WILL MR. VANCE SEE ANYONE FROM THE PLO WHILE OUR  
POSITION ON THE PLO REMAINS UNCHANGED?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT ANYTHING LIKE THAT IS IN THE  
WORKS, AND ALL I KNOW IS THAT OUR POSITION REMAINS AB-  
SOLUTELY UNCHANGED.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD OFFERED PRESIDENT CAR-  
TER A CONSENSUS ARAB PLAN ON THE SOLUTION OF THE PALES-  
TINIAN PROBLEM?

A. THE PRESIDENT SAID WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY FOLLOWING  
THAT MEETING, AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO THE READ-OUT  
COMING FROM GENEVA YESTERDAY AND ANY REMARKS THAT THE  
PRESIDENT HAS MADE SINCE THEN. I CAN'T ADD ANYTHING TO  
THAT, REALLY.

Q. I KNOW YOU WENT INTO THIS AT GREAT LENGTH YESTER-  
DAY, AND IF YOU'RE STANDING ON YESTERDAY'S POSITION, YOU  
NEEDN'T ADD TO IT. BUT ON THIS ISRAELI CONCERN ABOUT  
ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL, CAN YOU BE SPECIFIC ON WHAT THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT'S REACTION IS TO THIS PENDING SENATE  
RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL'S STATUS AS AN ARMS BUYER, THE  
CASE-HUMPHREY AMENDMENT?

A. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO OFFER YOU ON THE CASE-HUMPHREY  
AMENDMENT AT THIS TIME. WE'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT.

3. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT  
PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE  
MAY 10 PRESS BRIEFING:

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Q. HOW DOES THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED  
STATES ON ARMS SUPPLIES OF SEPTEMBER 1975, IN

CONNECTION WITH THE SINAI II AGREEMENT, APPLY TO THIS  
ADMINISTRATION'S ARMS EXPORT POLICY?

A. --THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL AT THAT TIME WAS TRANSMITTED TO  
CONGRESS. IT REMAINS CLASSIFIED, AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO  
DISCUSS ITS SPECIFICS. UNTIL THE PRESIDENT REACHES FINAL  
DECISIONS ON ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, AS THE SECRETARY NOTED  
IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, WE ARE NOT GOING TO  
DISCUSS VARIOUS SPECIFICS OF THAT POLICY.

--AT HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE (JANUARY 11), SECRETARY VANCE SAID:  
QUOTE WE ARE IRREVOCABLY COMMITTED TO THE PROPOSITION  
THAT INsofar AS ISRAEL IS CONCERNED WE WILL SUPPLY THE  
ARMS NECESSARY TO HER SECURITY. THAT IS A HISTORIC COM-  
MITMENT WHICH WE HAVE AND WE WILL STAND BEHIND THAT.  
UNQUOTE.

--THAT REMAINS THE POSITION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, AS IT  
HAS BEEN OF PAST ADMINISTRATIONS.

Q. WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER  
TO SENATOR JAVITS ACCUSING IRAQ, LIBYA, SOMALIA AND  
SOUTH YEMEN OF SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM?

A. --THE LETTER WAS SENT IN ANSWER TO A REQUEST FROM  
SENATOR JAVITS ON FEBRUARY 23 REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT  
REPORTS THAT THOSE FOUR COUNTRIES ARE SUPPORTING AND  
ASSISTING TERRORIST ATTACKS.

--THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER WAS A STRAIGHTFORWARD  
STATEMENT OF FACT.

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--THE STATE DEPARTMENT LETTER WAS A REPETITION OF THE  
LONG-STANDING AND WELL-KNOWN POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

Q. WHAT IS THE CURRENT POSITION ON WHETHER THE UNITED  
STATES GOVERNMENT WILL DEAL WITH THE PLO?

A. --THE POSITION IS AS THE SECRETARY STATED IT AT HIS  
PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 31.

Q. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE ISRAELI  
REQUEST TO PURCHASE F-16'S?

A. --WHAT THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID MARCH 8, AFTER  
PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER  
RABIN, REMAINS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT POSITION:

THE PRESIDENT REAFFIRMED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO SELL THE F-16 TO ISRAEL, A COMMITMENT MADE IN PRINCIPLE BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. AS THE WHITE HOUSE SAID ALSO MARCH 8, WHAT REMAINS TO BE DECIDED IS THE TIMING OF DELIVERY AND NUMBER OF PLANES INVOLVED.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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